



Latin Handwriting

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OBJECTIVES

You will be able to:

- use online resources to help you read Latin documents
- learn basic Latin grammar in order to determine relationships
- read Latin documents at a basic level

Usefulness

Latin has been the language of the Church for centuries and many records were written in Latin, either in toto or in part. Being able to read Latin gives you access to the information in many records.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Latin is an Indo-European language, which means that it is related to English, German, Russian, and number of other languages, mostly found in Europe and in a swath that reaches into India. It is the mother language of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, and a few other languages, which we designate as 'Romance'. English has borrowed thousands of words from Latin and the other Romance languages, especially French. This has changed the vocabulary of English tremendously and has led some people to believe that English is descended from Latin. Such is not the case. English is a Germanic language, mostly closely related to Dutch, Frisian, German, Afrikaans, and the Scandinavian languages. However, the borrowing of so many Latin-based words into English makes reading Latin much easier for the English speaker than it would have been had such borrowing not occurred.

Here is how to search a webpage for a specific word:

On a PC press the 'control' button and hold it down while you press the 'F' button. Depending on the browser you use, a box will appear at the top right, left, or bottom left. Type a word or any letter string, i.e. part of a word, into the box. That letter string will then be highlighted. If there is more than one occurrence of that string, such will be indicated and you can click the arrow to find each occurrence.

On a Mac it's the command and f button at the same time.

Dictionaries, word lists and other aides:

1. FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. It includes subsections for topical vocabulary items, such as numbers, key words, and abbreviations. The general word list is Latin to English.

2. Google Translate <https://translate.google.com/>

This is an easy-to-use site. You can search either Latin to English or English to Latin.

3. How to decline personal names

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/>

This site shows you the many endings in all the cases of personal names. One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

4. Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

This is a wonderful dictionary with many terms. Of particular importance is that it gives the various declensions of the items, including given names. This will help you understand the grammar.

5. Latine - English Dictionary http://www.genealogy.ro/dictionary/lat_eng_a.htm

This is more a word list than a dictionary. It is genealogically oriented. It also gives diseases at the bottom of each letter's page, which can be very helpful when determining the cause of death.

6. Smith & Hall English-Latin Dictionary <https://www.latinitium.com/smithhall?s>

This is a very good dictionary that translates from English to Latin.

Other aides:

7. The Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

This encyclopedia will give detailed explanations of many terms dealing with the Catholic church. To increase your understanding of cultural items, see this encyclopedia.

You will often encounter various abbreviations in your documents. The following two sites will give the expansion of the abbreviations, which means that you will still have to translate the terms to a language that you understand.

8. Wörterbuch lateinischer und deutscher Abkürzungen des späten Mittelalters und der Neuzeit

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/58434-redirection>

9. Dizionario di Abbreviature Latine ed Italiani This book appears on two websites. Try them both and see which you like more.

<https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>

<http://www.hist.msu.ru/Departments/Medieval/Cappelli/>

10. Week Day Symbols https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Week_Day_Symbols

You will often encounter symbols, usually as part of a date, that are unfamiliar to you. Often, these are symbols for days of the week. See this site to learn what those symbols mean.

Part 1: Dictionaries, Word lists and other aides:

Activity 1

For this activity, find these words in the FamilySearch Latin Genealogical word list:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Do a control F (or command f) search for these words and write all the different Latin words that you find for each English word.

Objectives of this activity:

1. You will become familiar with the FS Latin word list
2. You will learn how to search using the control F feature
3. You will learn many Latin vocabulary items

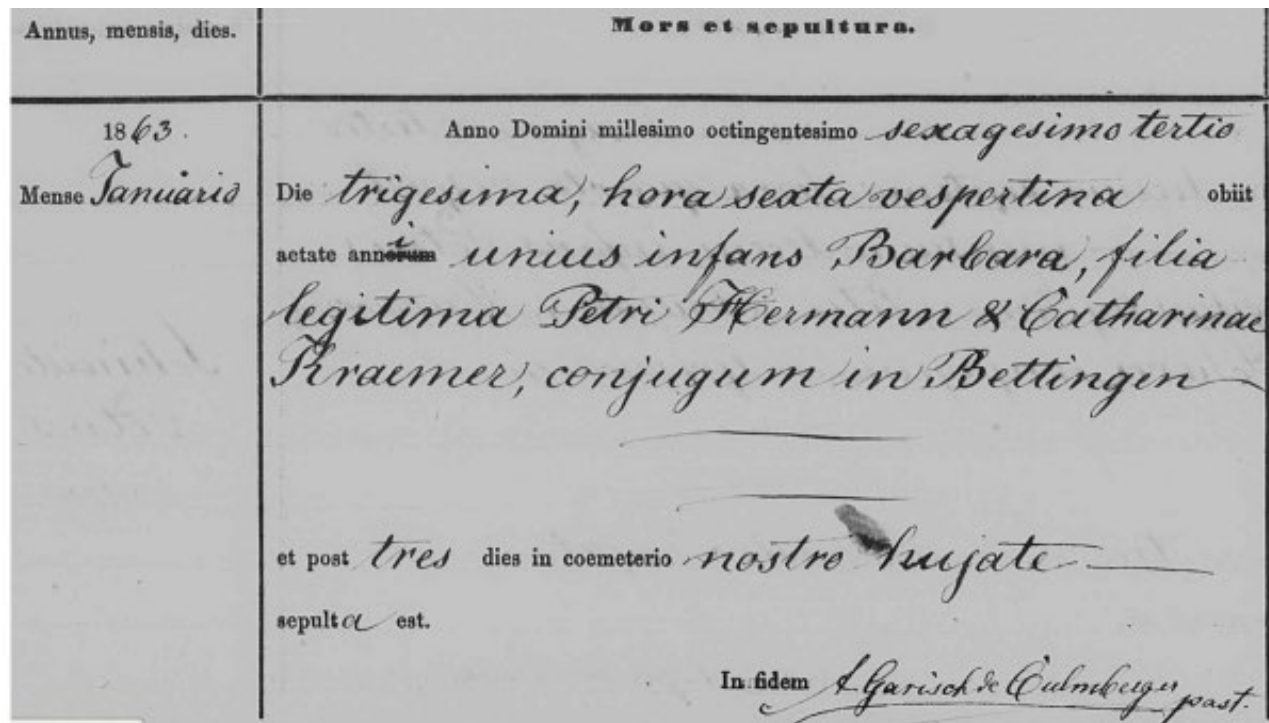
Death	
Godparents	
Marriage	
	Homework
Mother	
Baptized	
Born	
Child	
Witnesses	
Godmother	
Godfather	
Father	
Buried	
Wife	

Activity 2:

Objectives of this activity:

1. You will become familiar with the various word lists and dictionaries that you will need
2. You will learn many Latin vocabulary items

For this activity, look at the document and see if you can recognize any of the cognates. Can you more or less make out what is being said in this document?



Now, use these sites to look up each of the following words. You will not find all of the words in any one site but will have to use all of them.

FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

Latine – English Dictionary http://www.genealogy.ro/dictionary/lat_eng_a.htm

sexagesima	
vespertina	
filia	
nostro	
hujate	

Part 2: Grammar: Cases

Latin is what we call a synthetic, as opposed to an analytical, language. This means that Latin has a tremendous number of word endings. How a noun or pronoun functions in a sentence is indicated by word endings, not by word order, as in English.

Case	Use
Nominative	This is the subject of the sentence I baptized the child.
Genitive	This is the 'owner' of an item. In English, we often indicate this with 's or <i>of</i> ... The child of Thomas and Mary (or Thomas' and Mary's child) was baptized)
Dative	This is the beneficiary of the action, i.e. the person for whom something is done For John and Mary I baptized the child.
Accusative	This is the receiver of the action I baptized the child.

Here are the most common endings for three of the five noun groups, which we call 'declensions.'

Case	1 st declensions	2 nd declensions	3 rd declensions
Nominative	Maria Matthias	Petrus	Joannes
Genitive	Mariae Matthiae	Petri	Joannis
Dative	Mariae Matthiae	Petro	Joanni
Accusative	Mariam Matthiam	Petrum	Joannem

Activity 3:

Objectives of this activity:

1. You will become familiar with the use of cases in order to determine who is doing what to whom in the sentence.

From these two documents, look up these names and tell the case and function in the sentence of each one. You can use the chart above (recommended) or these two websites:

How to decline personal names <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/> One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

Annus, mensis, dies.	Mors et sepultura.
1863. Mense Januario	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo sexagesimo tertio Die trigesima, hora sexta vespertina obiit aetate annorum unius infans Barbara, filia legitima Petri Hermann & Catharinae Praemer, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepulta est. In fidem A. Garisch de Culmburg past.

Mense februario	Die vigesima octava, hora 7 ^{ma} matut. obiit aetate annorum hebdomatum quinque infans Matthias, filius legitimus. Matthiae Frank & Barbarae Haubert, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepultus est. In fidem A. Garisch de Culmburg past.
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Name	Case
Example: Barbara	Nominative. Subject of the sentence. The person being baptized.
Petri	
Catharinae	
Joanni	
Matthiae	
Annam	

Activity 4 Translations:

For the following documents, use the skills that you have developed and resources that you have learned to translate the following documents. For some of the documents a transcription has been provided for you to check your work. Lines will be provided for your work before the transcription so that you will focus on the document itself first and not on the transcription. Do as much as you can before you refer to the transcription.

When you transcribe or translate a document, you should stay true to the lines as they appear in the documents. This means that if there are seven lines in the original document, you should have seven lines in your transcription and translation. If you are only extracting information, which you will often do (even in these exercises), you do not need to stay true to the lines.

For these exercises do not get hung-up on the surnames and place names. Those will be dependent on the area in which you are researching. Do pay special attention to given names, though.

Document 1

If you are working with a baptismal record and you see the words *natus* and *renatus*, what do you automatically know about the person being baptized? What if you see *nata* and *renata*?

Mense Martio Die vigesima prima, hora 6^{ta} matut obiit
aetate annorum hebdomad. decem infans Catharina
filia legitima Nicolai Kraus & Barbarae
Backes, conjugum in Bettingen

Die *vigesima prima*, hora 6^{ta} matut. obiit
aetate annorum *hebdomad. decem* infans Cathar.

aetate annorum ~~he~~ ^{domad.} decem infans Catharina
 filia legitima Nicolai Kraus & Barbarae
 Backes, conjugum in Bettingen

et post *tres* dies in coemeterio *nostro hujate*
sepult~~a~~ est.

In fidem *J. Garisch & Gulmbergu* perst.

[illegible]

Mense Aprili Die trigesima, hora 9^{na} vespertina obiit
aetate ann^{orum} unius mensium decem infans
Petrus, filius legitimus Petri Bernar-
ding & Mariae Erbel, conjugum
in Aussen;
et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate
sepultus est.
In fidem H. Garisch & Culmberger pastor

[illegible]

Document 3

Annus, mensis, dies.	Infantes baptizati, parentes, levantes.
<p>1891...</p> <p>Majus</p> <p>31. a.</p>	<p>Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo <i>nonagesimo primo</i>...</p> <p>die <i>vigesima secunda</i> c. h. d. m. mensis <i>Maji</i> natus est et</p> <p>die <i>trigesima prima</i> mensis <i>Maji</i> baptizatus est</p> <p><i>Nicolaus Angel</i> filius legitimus</p> <p><i>Petri Angel et Annae Mariae Spang</i></p> <p><i>conjugum in Aysen.</i></p> <p>Levantes erant: <i>Nicolaus Truse et Maria</i></p> <p><i>Spang ex Aysen.</i></p> <p>In fidem: <i>J. Kase, par.</i></p>

[illegible]

Document 4

NB! Look up -que in the Latin word list!

Die 21^a hujus natus eodemque die renatus est
 Joannes Hermann, filius leg. Nicolai Hermann et
 Margaritæ Erpel conj. ex aussen; levantibus
 Joanne Hermann et Barbara Hermann oibus ex
 aussen;

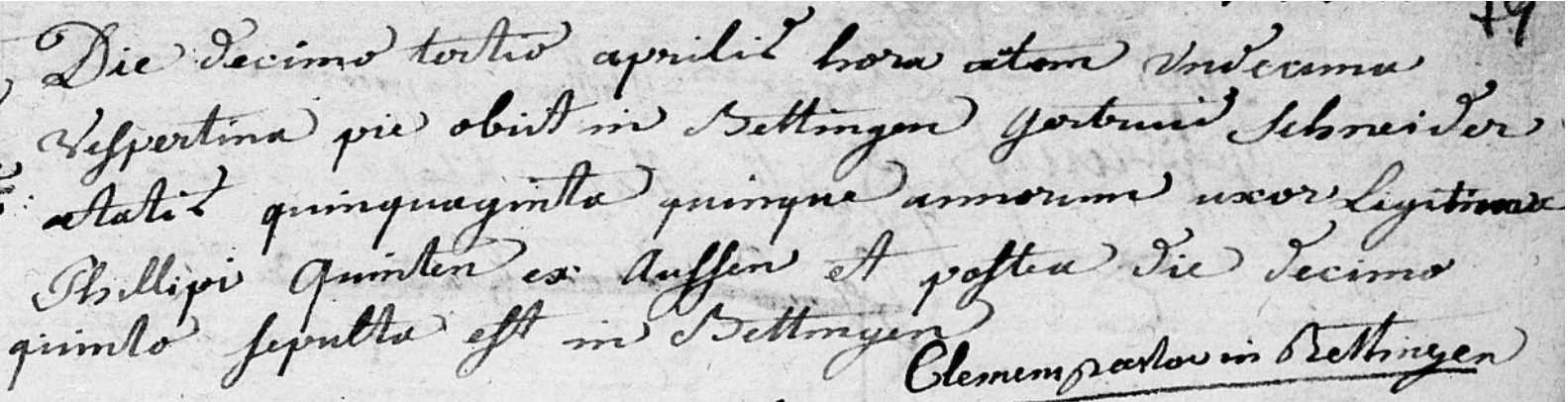
Die 21^a hujus natus eodemque die renatus est
 Joannes Hermann, filius leg. Nicolai Hermann et
 Margaritæ Erpel conj. Ex aussen; levantibus
 Joanne Hermann et Barbara Hermann oibus ex
 aussen

Document 5

Die 14^e hujus natus alteraque die renatus est Godtfred
 Schmit filius leg. Godtfried Schmit et Anna
 Quinten conj. ex aussen; levantibus Godtfried
 Reiter et Anna Maria Schmit ambobus ex
 Weiskirchen

Die 14a hujus natus alteraque die renatus est Godtfrid
lebmit filius leg. Godtfridis lebmit et Annæ
quinten conj. Ex aussen; levantibus Godtfride
Reiter et Anna Maria lebmit ambobus ex
weiskirchen pflüger

Document 6



Document 7

Anno 1817 Die 2 Aprilis hora sextima 10^{ma} post meridiana
 natus et die sequenti baptizatus est joannis filius legitimus
 joannis Kleinkeuer et Margrethae Lenthof conjugum
 ex auster. Levantes erant joannis Nuss et Annemaria
 Lenthof ex Bettingen. Clemens

Document 8

Before you translate the document, look at the numbers and letters in the right-hand column.
 What do they mean?

Die nona Septembris factis de more tribus proclama: In
 tionibus nulloque impedimento detecto in facie ecclesiae 16713
 Matrimonium contraxerunt philippus Matthes viduus
 et civis in Lauschied et Maria Elisabetha Schneiderin
 soluta, Maria Margretha filia illegitima ex Lauschied. testes
 speciales erant philippus Sibila conjugatus et civis in Lau:
 schied et Jacobus Genser solutus ex Lauschied. Matrimo:
 nio assistebat Fr. Palatinus Corneli qui supra.

Document 9

Tribus proclamationibus in ecclesia parochiali rite factis nullaque
 impedimento canonico detecto per honestas Haarman Schmitt
 filium legitimum Adami Schmitt et defunctae Gertrudis Wiltsehl
 conjugum hujatum et Annam Müller f. leg. Jacobi Müller
 et Elisabethae Klein, conjugum similiter hujatum, Die 11^{ma} Junii
 1889 coram me et duobus testibus Jacobo Amende et Haarme
 Annam am hanc in Lieder habitantibus matrimonium
 in facie ecclesiae solemnizatum est
 ita testantur Schuster parochus
 sponsus: Joseph V. V. V.
 sponsa scribebat imperita signum manus suae } fecit.
 testes: Joseph Einfalt Haarman

Document 10

2^o cond nati natus joanni wilhelmo Laur, et Mariae Joanne
Laur conjugibus ex Legi. salus Joës Laure, et renatus 2^{is}
eadem parentibus Joanne hader, et Clara Laure ex
Legi. —

Document 11

For document 11 you are given an indexed version of the document as well as the document itself. Look at the index. Do you see any problem? Can you figure out what the problem is? You do not need to transcribe or translate this document.

Maria Spuria, "Hungary Catholic Church Records, 1636-1895"

[« Back to search results](#)

No image available

- [Search collection](#)
- [About this collection](#)

name: Maria Spuria
 event: Baptism
 event date: 10 Sep 1851
 event place: Karancskeszzi, Nógrád, Hungary
 gender: Female
 father:
 mother: [Juliana Lehoczký](#)
 line number:
 film number: 623863
 digital folder number: 004659093
 image number: 41

Anno Dies Mensis	F. l. Baptism	Baptized	Parentum			Levantes	Loc. originis
			Nomen, & Cognomen	Religio	Condicio		
1851 Septemb. 6.	Bodij	Theresia	Dalitsa Andreas Bartha Rosalia	Uas	Menax	Kelmen Georgij Tanjanyj Veronika	K. Keresi
9.	idem	Rosalia	Kantor Emilian Lantos Theresia	Uas	Inguis	Kovacs Stephanus Bapt. Elisabeth	Laputko
conf.	Bartholom.	Rosalia	Hollandi Michael Zidai Rosalia	Uas	Colant	Tanjanyj Tanjanyj Bartha Rosalia	K. Keresi
10	Bodij	Bartholom.	Liman Franciscus Dolci Barbara	Uas	Inguis	Urban Joannes Lantos Clara	Laputko
18	idem	Stephanus	Rachel Stephanus Lanczels Clara	Uas	Opilio	Kovacs Stephanus No. Catharina	Kutaf
22	Bartholom.	Stephanus	Kovacs Georgius Lahorky Juliana	Uas	Menax	Ab. Rich Joannes Ab. Mikinyi Theresia	K. Keresi
25	idem	Emilian	Somogyi Daniel Bartha Anna	Uas	Inguis	Juhász Stephanus Toth Anna	Laputko
conf.	Kek	Veronica	Lantos Bartholom.	Uas	Colant	Dorovny Nichol. Mab. Rosalia	K. Christophelova
28	Bodij	Josephus	Kovacs Josephus Baranya Rosalia	Uas	Menax	Telek Barth. Toth Theresia	K. Keresi
27	idem	Carolin	Kovacs Valentinus Kovacs Barbara	Uas	Inguis	Dalitsa Josephus Kovacs Elisabeth	Laputko
29	Kek	Andreas	Kovacs Mathias Toth Elisabeth	Uas	Colant	Kovacs Georgius Kitt Juliana	K. Szekely
Septemb. 2	Bodij	Michael	Kovacs Josephus Toth Elisabeth	Uas	Inguis	Toth Joannes Balt. Barbara	K. Alja
5	idem	Georgius	Toth Georgius Bapt. Anna	Uas	Menax	Mate Josephus Ferenc Veronika	Laputko
6	Kek	Josephus	Kovacs Antonius Bartha Martha	Uas	Inguis	Balt. Mathias Magalya Veronika	K. Alja
conf.	Bodij	Bartha	Veronika Josephus Bartha Elisabeth	Uas	Inguis	Ab. Rich Joannes Theresia Veronika	Laputko
10	Bartholom.	Bartha	Lahorky Juliana	Uas	Opilio	Ab. Rich Joannes Ab. Mikinyi Theresia	K. Keresi

Document 12

19.^{na} februarii Coram me, et requisitis testibus sic dictas secundas nuptias
celebrabant conjuges jubilosi honestus wilhelm stoffe, et honesta agatha forthomius.
9.^{na} m^{ris} in facie Ecclesie matrimonium inierunt honestus joannes georgius
well, et honesta Catharina lacherin vagabundi oblenta proinde assistendi licentia.
